

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 have been examined and have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

I. Preliminary Matter

The Examiner has acknowledged Applicant's claim for foreign priority on page 2 of the Office Action. However, the Examiner has not marked the appropriate boxes on the Office Action Summary. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to mark the appropriate boxes on the Office Action Summary with the next Office Action.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,125,323 to Nimura et al. ("Nimura").

A. Claim 1

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference. For example, claim 1 recites that the searching device increases or decreases the link cost of a link corresponding to a road section that requires a difficult turn on individual route options, "in at least two cases depending on difficulty of the difficult turn at the intersection."

The Examiner has failed to address where the above "in at least two cases" feature is taught or suggested in Nimura. In regard to just increasing or decreasing a link cost, the Examiner refers to column 27, lines 3-15 and column 36, lines 46-61 (pg. 3 of Office Action). In column 27, Nimura discloses that a right or left turn may be taken into consideration for traveling cost, i.e., a value decrease, while in column 36, Nimura discloses that a search cost for

turning right or left increases at an intersection. Applicant submits, however, that there is no teaching or suggestion that the link cost of a link corresponding to a difficult turn is increased or decreased *in at least two cases depending on the difficulty of the difficult turn*, as recited in claim

1. In other words, Nimura does not set forth that varying cases of difficult turns are determined when either increasing or decreasing the link cost. In this regard, Applicant refers the Examiner to the non-limiting embodiments on at least page 8 of the present Application.

At least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference. If the Examiner wishes to persist in the above rejection, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to specifically indicate where the claimed feature is taught by Nimura.

B. Claims 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16 and 17

Since claims 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16 and 17 contain features that are analogous to the features discussed above in regard to claim 1, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable for at least analogous reasons as claim 1.

C. Claims 2-7, 9, 11, 15

Applicant submits that claims 2-7, 9, 11 and 15 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency upon one of claims 1, 8 or 10.

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III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

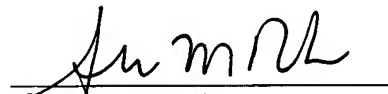
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